

STAGES FOR JANUARY 17, 2016
BY FLATBOAT BOB
(Reprised)

Capt. John R. Hughes, Texas Ranger

One of the most noted Texas Rangers, Captain John R. Hughes came west from Illinois when he was fourteen. A year or so later his right arm was shattered in an altercation over some stock, but Hughes developed the use of his left hand to such an extent that he was unhampered in the use of either pistol or rope.

He worked as a cowhand, made several trail drives to Kansas, and then, around 1886, a herd of horses belonging to his neighbors and himself were stolen. Hughes trailed the thieves some twelve hundred miles, recovered the stolen horses, and killed three of the thieves, capturing two others.

Shortly after, he began work as a Ranger, a job he held for twenty-eight years, serving with distinction. During this period he was involved in a number of gun battles. At various times attempts were made to ambush and kill him, none successful. In 1946, at the age of eighty-nine, he killed himself.

(From Bowdrie by Louis L'amour, 1983)

STAGE ONE (Bay 2)

10 rifle, 10 pistol and 4 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber, and holstered. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber, and staged on the cow at the left. Open, empty shotgun is staged on the horse at the right. Shooter must have at least four shotgun shells on his person.

The shooter starts standing at the horse at the right with his hands on his pistols or pistol and says "Happy New Year." At the beep, draw pistols according to category and engage the pistol targets in the following order: P2, P6, P10, P9, P8, P5, P2, P3, P4, P7. Holster pistols. Pick up shotgun and engage S7 and S8 in any order. Make shotgun safe. Move to the cow at the left and engage the rifle targets in the following order: R1, R5, R9, R8, R7, R4, R1, R2, R3, R6. Make rifle safe. Pick up shotgun and engage S1 and S2 in any order. Make shotgun safe. Pick up rifle and move to the unloading table.

STAGE TWO (Bay 2)

10 pistol, 10 rifle, 2 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber and holstered. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber, and held at port arms. Open, empty shotgun is staged on the horse at the right. Shooter must have at least two shotgun shells on his person.

Shooter starts standing at the cow at the left with the rifle held at port arms and says, "Happy New Year!" At the beep with the rifle, sweep each vertical column either from top to bottom or bottom to top. All columns must be swept in the same direction. After sweeping the three vertical columns, place the tenth round on R5, the diamond target. Make rifle safe. Move to the horse at the right. Draw pistols according to category and using the same instructions as for the rifle, engage the pistol targets. Holster pistols. Pick up shotgun and engage S7 and S8 in any order. Make shotgun safe; pick up rifle and move to the unloading table.

STAGE THREE (Bay 2)

10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 4 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber and staged on the bar. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber and staged on the bar. Open, empty shotgun is staged on the bar. Shooter must have at least four shotgun shells on his person.

The shooter starts standing behind the bar with both hands on the bar and says, "Happy New Year!" At the beep, (Guns may be shot in any order, but the rifle cannot be last.) with the rifle engage all ten rifle targets. With the pistols place ten rounds on P1; and with the shotgun sweep S3, S4, S5, and S6 in either direction. (Pistols may be holstered or returned to the bar.) After shooting is complete, pistols will be holstered and open empty long guns will be picked up; and the shooter will move to the unloading table

STAGE FOUR (Bay 3)

10 pistol, 10 rifle, 6 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber and holstered. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber, and staged on the tall table at the left. Open, empty shotgun is staged safely. Shooter must have at least six shotgun shells on his person.

The shooter starts standing at the tall table and yells "Happy New Year!" At the beep the shooter picks up the rifle and engages the three rifle targets R1, R2, R3

from either direction with a double tap sweep; then from the same direction a single tap sweep; then with the tenth round engage the bonus target for a five second bonus. Make rifle safe. Move to the barrel and with the shotgun engage S1, S2, S3 and S4 in any order. Make shotgun safe. Move to the horse at the right and engage S5 and S6 in any order. Make shotgun safe. Draw pistols according to category and engage P6, P7, and P8 using the same instructions as for the rifle, but place the tenth round on any rifle target in front of the horse. Holster pistols. Pick up long guns and move to the unloading table.

STAGE FIVE (Bay 3)

10 pistol, 10 rifle, 6 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber and holstered. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber and staged on the horse at the left. Open, empty shotgun is held at port arms. Shooter must have at least six shotgun shells on his person.

Shooter starts standing at the barrel with the shotgun held at port arms and says, "Happy New Year! " At the beep the shooter engages the shotgun targets S1, S2, S3, and S4 in the following order—top to bottom, top to bottom. Make shotgun safe. Move to tall table; draw pistols according to category, and engage the pistol targets in the following order: P3, P2, P1, P2, P3, P3, P4, P5, P4, P3. Holster pistols. Move to the horse at the right. Pick up rifle and engage the rifle targets in the following order: R6, R5, R4, R5, R6, R6, R7, R8, R7, R6. Make rifle safe. Pick up shotgun and engage S5 and S6 in any order. Make shotgun safe. Pick up rifle and move to the unloading table.

STAGE SIX (Bay 3)

10 pistol, 10 rifle, 2 shotgun

Procedure: Both pistols are loaded with five rounds each, hammer down on empty chamber and holstered. Rifle is loaded with ten rounds, action closed, hammer down on empty chamber, and staged on the barrel. Open empty shotgun is staged on the barrel. Shooter must have at least two shotgun shells on his person.

Shooter starts standing at the horse at the right and says, "Happy New Year." At the beep the shooter draws pistols according to category and engages P6, P7, and P8 in a double tap Nevada sweep. Holster pistols. Move to the barrel. Pick up rifle and engage the rifle targets in the following order: R1, R8, R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8. Make rifle safe. Pick up shotgun and engage any two of the four shotgun targets. Make shotgun safe. Pick up rifle and move to the unloading table.